

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The previous claims have been amended and new independent claims added.

The specification has been amended as to form, including adding section headings.

There are no other formal matters pending.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 8 stand rejected as obvious over KODOSKY 4,901,221 in view of OIAN 5,353,233.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected as obvious over KODOSKY '221 and OIAN in further view of KODOSKY 5,475,851.

Applicants have studied these references, both individually and in combination, and do not believe that they render obvious the present invention.

KODOSKY '221 is offered as disclosing the recited invention except for "specifying, executing, and analyzing the recognition of dispatch labels and form entries". OIAN is offered for these missing teachings.

As to claims 5-6, KODOSKY '851 is offered for marking the current step of a flowchart.

As recited in amended independent claim 1 and as recited in the newly-added independent claims, the invention is non-obvious over the prior art. The claims now recite the invention with sufficient specificity that the combination of

recited features are not disclosed by the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the three independent claims, although similar, are of different scope. Each, however, is believed non-obvious.

Take claim 9 first. Overall, claim 9 recites the steps of 1) identifying a method sequence for an optical character recognition analysis of data fields of an input form, 2) specifying the method sequence steps in graphical form as sequential flowchart blocks, each flowchart block corresponding to one method sequence step, 3) compiling the flowchart, 4) optically reading data from each of the data fields of a data-filled input form, 5) analysis of the optically read data including displaying of the flowchart, the flowchart blocks and the attributes and function details associated with each flowchart block, as displaying an optically scanned copy of the data-filled input form, 6) on a data field-by-data field basis, sequentially analyzing the optically read data, and 7) determining data value of each optically read data based on the corresponding displayed flowchart block and the displayed associated attributes and function details.

See Figures 1-2 for illustration of these recited steps and the display of the steps on a computer display screen.

None of the three applied references are seen as disclosing for specifying, executing, and analyzing the recognition of dispatch labels and form entries in the manner recited by this claim.

Although there may be teachings as to some of the broad steps, i.e., flowcharting and analysis, there is no disclosure found as to the specific features recited, and the specific combination of features recited.

Nor do applicants see the overall concept of the present invention suggested by the references, or suggested by the references in reasonable combination.

Claim 10 recites the specification phase as including inputting, in graphical form, a method sequence as a flowchart having plural flowchart blocks, each flowchart block having attributes and function details defining optical scanning recognition of a corresponding data field of a data-filled form. This is not seen in the references.

Note that claim 10 requires displaying the scanned form on a computer display, and on a data field-by-data field basis, analyzing the scanned data by comparing the scanned data of each data field to a corresponding one of the flowchart blocks, including displaying the attributes and function details associated with the corresponding flowchart block of the data field currently being analyzed. This is also not found by applicants in the applied references.

Nor do applicants see the recited step of recognizing the data from the scanned data based on the displayed attributes and function details.

Again, the interactive nature of the invention, as recited to include the step-by-step analysis with display of the flowchart, the flowchart steps and the corresponding attributes and function details, is not seen in the references.

Claim 1 is more detailed and believed patentable for the same reasons as outlined above.

In view of the above, applicants believe that each of the independent claims patentably recite the present invention. The dependent claims are believed allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

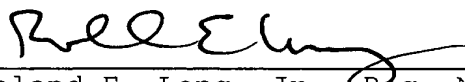
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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